

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 ACDA-07 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /137 W
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R 062020 MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7148
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
EC BRUSSELS 1137

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, EFIS, NO
SUBJECT: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN BARENTS SEA DISPUTE

REF: (A) OSLO 1885, (B) OSLO 432

SUMMARY: PROSPECTS SEEM BLEAK FOR RAPID SETTLEMENT OF BARENTS
SEA BOUNDARY DISPUTE AND FOR AGREEMENT ON FISHING ZONES IN
DISPUTED AREAS ACCORDING TO NORWEGIAN DCM. END SUMMARY.

1. NORWEGIAN DCM GEORG KRANE GAVE EMBOFF MAY 5 SIMILAR
PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF BARENTS SEA BOUNDRY DISPUTE AS
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CONTAINED REF A. HE, MAKES LESS, HOWEVER, OF FAILURE TO
RENEW TALKS IN APRIL THAN DOES EVENSEN, ATTRIBUTING IT
TO PRESSURES ON SOVIET FISHING NEGOTIATIONS TO DEAL
WITH EC AND JAPANESE BEFORE STARTING ANOTHER ROUND
WITH NORWAY. HE FEELS CONFIDENT THAT AS SCHEDULES
MAKE IT POSSIBLE, SOVIETS WILL REOPEN TALKS AND ESTI-

MATES THAT JUNE IS POSSIBLE, BUT JULY MORE PORBABLE.

2. DESPITE THIS TECHNICAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL, CAUSE FOR DELAY, KRANE DOUBTS AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED EASILY BECAUSE OF SOVIET INFLEXIBILITY ON THE SECTOR LINE PRINCIPLE AND NORWEIGIAN UNWILLINGESS TO ACCEPT IT (PARTICULARLY WITH THE SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS IN SIGHT). HENCE, THE OPTIMISM OF LAST JANUARY (REF B) IS GONE, AND HE LOOKS FOR LONG, HARD NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

3. MOSCOW HAS, ACCORDING TO KRANE, ADDED TO PROBLEMS RECENTLY BY INSISTEING THERE IS NO DISPUTED ZONE AND, THEREFORE, THAT NO DEFINITION OF SUCH A ZONE CAN BE INSERTED IN THE AGREEMENT. HE TOLD US OSLO IS EXAMINING A NUMBER OF PLOTTING METHODS WHICH IT HOPES WILL SATISFY THE SOVIETS AND YET AVOID DEFINING THE DISPUTED ZONE; BUT HE HAS ONLY SLIGHT HOPES THAT THIS WILL SUCCEED.

4. COMMENT: WE SHARE KRANE'S PESSISMISM THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE EASILY REACHED NOW. SOVIETS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN JAPANESE FISHING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE SIMILAR, ALBEIT MUCH MORE COMPLEX, DISPUTED ZONE AT ISSUE. COMPROMISE ON THE DISPUTED AREA WITH NORWAY BEFORE THE MAIN OUTLINES OF JAPANESE SETTLEMENT ARE KNOWN WOULD ONLY RISK UNDERMINING THEIR TOUGH LINE WITH THE LATTER. ADDITIONALLY SOVIETS MAY HAVE INTEREST IN NOT SETTLING OUTSTANDING QUOTA QUESTIONS IN BARENTS SEA UNTIL THEY HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF QUOTAS THEY WILL RECEIVE FROM EC.
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HENCE, WHILE NORWEGIANS MAY VIEW DELAY AS SIGN OF POOR BILAERAL RELATIONS, SOVIETS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE SIMPLY PUTTING NORWEIGIANS ON BACK BURNER WHILE THEY TAKE CARE OF MORE PRESSING ISSUES. OF COURSE, SOVIET WILLINGESS TO DO THIS IS PROBABLY LINKED TO FACT THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE NOT GOOD IN ANY CASE.

MATLOCK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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